

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested. Claims 7-13 and 17-27 are in this application. Claims 7, 8, 17, 19, and 21 have been amended to broaden the claims. Claims 1-6 and 14-16 have been cancelled.

The Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gris (U.S. Patent No. 6,258,720 B1). As noted above, claim 16 has been cancelled.

The Examiner objected to claims 17-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 has been amended to be in independent form, and is believed to include all of the limitations of base claim 16 (including the broadening amendment made to the other claims in the present amendment). Claims 18-27 have not been amended as these claims depend either directly or indirectly from claim 17.

Thus, for the foregoing reasons, it is submitted that all of the claims are in a condition for allowance. Therefore, the Examiner's early re-examination and reconsideration are respectively requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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